

REMARKS

Claims 20, 22-24, 26-44 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 36 and 37 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 20, 22-24, 26-35, and 38-44 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Double Patenting

Claims 20, 26, 27, 31, 32, 41 and 44 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3 and 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,650 B1.

In response, a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,709,650 is filed herewith to overcome the rejection of claims 20, 26, 27, 31, 32, 41 and 44. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claim 36 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In response, claims 36 and 37 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-24, 28-30, 33-35, 37-40, 42 and 43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the Terminal Disclaimer co-filed herewith to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 20, 26, 27, 31, 32, 41 and 44, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 263742002802. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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